

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS
FOR RENEWAL OF PRACTITIONER OF RESPIRATORY CARE LICENSE IN 2008

As respiratory care practitioners look toward license renewal after the turn of the year, the Practitioner of Respiratory Care Advisory Committee of the Board recommends that each licensed practitioner review continuing education responsibilities, and continue to maintain no less than the minimum required contact hours. This article will briefly review the continuing education requirements listed in the Nevada Administrative Code (NAC 630.530), and provide the current list of approved educational resource sites.

At the time of license renewal, each licensed practitioner must submit proof of satisfactory completion of the following number of contact hours of continuing professional education, sixty percent (60%) of which must be from an approved educational source directly related to the practice of respiratory care, and the remainder of which must be from an educational source approved by the board, and include two (2) contact hours in ethics.

For instance, if a practitioner was initially licensed sometime during the first six months of 2006 and applies for biennial renewal, he/she will need to submit proof of completion of twenty (20) continuing hours of professional education. All twenty hours must come from educational sources approved by the Board. Twelve (12) of those twenty hours must be directly related to the practice of respiratory care, and two (2) of those twenty hours must be in ethics. If the practitioner was initially licensed at some point after the first six months of 2006, the following sliding scale requirements are applicable:

1. *If licensed during the first six months of the biennial period of registration (March 1, 2006 – August 31, 2006) – twenty (20) hours, twelve (12) of which must be directly related to respiratory care.*
2. *If licensed during the second six months of the biennial period of registration (Sept 1, 2006 – Feb 28, 2007) - fifteen (15) hours, nine (9) of which must be directly related to respiratory care.*
3. *If licensed during the third six months of the biennial period of registration (March 1, 2007 – August 31, 2007) - ten (10) hours, six (6) of which must be directly related to respiratory care.*
4. *If licensed during the fourth six months of the biennial period of registration (September 1, 2007 – February 29, 2008) - five (5) hours, three (3) of which must be directly related to respiratory care.*

All practitioners seeking renewal must complete two (2) hours of continuing professional education in the subject matter of ethics.

The Board has approved the following sources of continuing professional education:

The American Medical Association
The American Association for Respiratory Care
any American State Board of Respiratory Care
any American State Board of Nursing
The Center for Disease Control
The American Lung Association
The American Heart Association
The Red Cross of America
American Nurses Association
American Thoracic Society
American College of Chest Physicians
College of American Pathologists
Society for American Anesthesiology
Society for Critical Care Medicine
National Society for Cardiopulmonary Technology
www.learnwell.org (medical ethics online)

In addition to these approved sources for qualified continuing professional education, there are educational programs provided by various health care facilities that have been approved by the Board.

Note: *Any program approved by the American Association for Respiratory Care for Continuing Respiratory Care Education (CRCE) shall be accepted as being directly related to the practice of respiratory care. All other educational episodes submitted as being directly related to the practice of respiratory care will be approved at the discretion of the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners.*

Specific structure of the continuing professional education requirements can be found under NAC 630.530 in the statutes/regulations book previously forwarded to all licensed practitioners. (Page 30 of the second section.)

Should you have further questions regarding practitioner of respiratory care requirements for continuing professional education, please contact the Nevada State Board of Medical Examiners.